

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.45 pm on Tuesday, 18th April, 2023**

There were three members of the public present.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. S. Sawyer	Cllr. T. Carbin
	Cllr. K. Hayes	Cllr. C. Prevett
	Cllr. S Uncles	

Before the meeting started, Samantha Woodard addressed the Parish Council about her wish to become a co-opted member. She said she had lived in Church Street for a couple of years, she was a teacher of engineering and design and wanted to be become involved in village affairs. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.50p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Turner, Fisher, Smokcum, Boreham and Allan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st March, 2023, were approved and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minute 8 – Village Hall Play Area – Annual Inspection: The Clerk had informed the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee that the quote received had been accepted by the Parish Council, and all the equipment would be inspected in May.

Minute 8 – CPRE Best Kept Village Competition: The Clerk said she had sent in Hilpertons entry.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said he had received a response from Staverton Parish Council regarding money they might have put by to fight the Local Plan. Apparently they had no funds set aside for this.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said there were no figures out yet regarding the five-year land supply. It seemed likely that the requirement for a five-year land supply might be lowered to four years.

7. POLICE

PCSO Jack Thomas had given his apologies.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Consideration of the Co-Option of a new Parish Councillor

After a short discussion, it was agreed that Samantha Woodard should be co-opted to the Parish Council. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Carbin, all in favour). Members warmly welcomed her and the Clerk said she would make contact regarding her Register of Interests form which would need to be completed on line.

Wiltshire Council Local Plan

Dr. Beckett said it seemed likely that the Local Plan would be presented to Wiltshire Council's cabinet in July, and after that it would go to the full council, probably in September. She and her team intended to canvass all Wiltshire Councillors, and also parliamentary candidates. Following consultation, the Public Hearing would probably commence in the spring of 2024, or even later.

Discussion took place on the fact that Staverton Parish Council had not yet put by funds to fight the plan. It appeared that there were many willing volunteers in the parish, which was, of course, commendable, but after a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should formally get in touch with Staverton PC to let them know how much Hilperton had in its budget for probable legal costs and expert advice and how much to date had been spent. (The Clerk to prepare a draft letter and e-mail it to parish councillors).

Allotments/Community Orchard

The Clerk said she had just sent out reminders to late-paying tenants and to date only five rentals were outstanding. Julia Goodwin of the Allotments Association had been in touch with Cllr. House to say membership had fallen off slightly, so he was intending to send round-robin e-mails to all tenants, reminding them of the benefits of belonging to the Association. In conclusion, Cllr. House said that progress was being made on the proposed pond and work had started on digging a hole.

Works for the Parish Steward on his next visit

The Chairman said that there would be no visits anywhere in the county during May, as parish stewards would be grass cutting throughout the month. So the next visit to Hilperton would be on the 5th and 6th June.

SIDS Update

The Chairman said that now he had learned that Wiltshire Council's contractor would only give approval for a single calendar year for a SID to be attached to a lamp post, it appeared that two poles would now have to be erected, one in Marsh Road and the other along the Trowbridge Road. Members agreed that this should be done to move matters forward.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Chairman said he had been in touch with Place Studio who said they would be happy to provide a day/1.5 days of their time to scope out the review and set out a project plan of work for the review with Hilperton parish. This could be done later in the month or early May. He said he would continue with that. The consultants would also like a meeting with parish representatives (some members of the working group) and the Chairman said he would get in with arranging this as well.

Wiltshire Council-owned Play Areas in the Parish

The Chairman was sorry to say he had not made any progress on this matter and suggested that it should be deferred to the May meeting.

Church Farm – S106 Payments to the Village Hall for Open Space/Play Equipment

The Chairman informed members that two S106 payments were due to the Village Hall in respect of the Church Farm development – one for £20,417.76 for upgrading open space and facilities at the Village Hall, and the other in the amount of £3,304.00, being a sports contribution towards the Village Hall and recreation ground. There were two routes the Parish Council could take to spend the money:- either the Land Adoptions team could pass the funds to the Parish Council under a side agreement and then they would have full control; or the Parish Council could apply for the funds piecemeal as and when projects came up at the Village Hall and recreation ground. It was agreed that the first option was

preferable, and the Clerk was asked to get back to the S106 and CIL monitoring officer at Wiltshire Council to confirm this. The Chairman added that more S106 funds (£16,000) should be available from the Belway development, and the Clerk said she would ask WC about this being added to the other two payments in respect of Church Farm.

Parish Council-owned Bus Shelters – maintenance and painting

Cllr. Sawyer said that most of the bus shelters needed cleaning, the one at the top of Hill Street being in the worst condition. This should have been repaired and repainted a year ago, but nothing came of it. The Clerk said she had e-mailed Michael Grant to see if he was prepared to do the work but if he did not respond the Chairman asked Cllr. Sawyer to give the Clerk Paul Staddon's contact details.

'No Speeding' Signs on approach to St. Michael's Pre-School

This had been brought up at the March PC meeting by PCSO Jack Thomas, as he felt signs should be put up to curb speeding in the vicinity. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the pre-school to see if teachers there thought this was an issue, and then report back to the May meeting.

Bid by Wiltshire Council for funding of walking/cycle routes in Devizes Road

Cllr. Carbin had learned that there was more government funding for 'reserve' schemes, and a route from Fieldways to Devizes Road was being put forward by Wiltshire Council. The Chairman said he was astounded to hear about this as he had not been informed of any such scheme. He would now make some enquiries.

Problems with Dog Bins in the Village

Cllr. Prevett said that some dog bins were filled up with bottles and other rubbish unconnected with dog 'poo', so when the bins were emptied on Mondays by Wiltshire Council rubbish had built up over the weekend and bags of dog poo were left on the ground. It was agreed that the Parish Council should keep an eye on this situation and individual members report this problem to Wiltshire Council using the My Wilts app.

Public Clock – St. Michael's Church

The Chairman said that there were problems with the striking chain on the clock, which was stopping it from chiming. After a short discussion, it was unanimously agreed that some help should be given to the PCC, and the Chairman should approach them to say that the Parish Council would fund up to £1,500 for the clock to be serviced and the striking chain repaired.

Cyclists using the Elizabeth Way Cycle Track

The Chairman had received a few e-mails about cyclists going too fast along the track. It was agreed that this should be noted but that the Parish Council could not help with this problem.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2023/02263 – 256 Hill Street

Proposed works to trees in a conservation area – 4 Beech trees to be felled

It was agreed that an objection should be made to the proposed felling of all four trees, but if the proposal met with the tree officer's approval, the Parish Council would concur with her decision.

PL/2023/02798 – 123 Devizes Road

Proposed works to trees in a conservation area – crown reduction, dead-wooding and thinning out of Horse Chestnut, Ash and Yew.

It was agreed that no objection would be made as long as the works met with the approval of the tree officer concerned.

PL/07751/FUL – Land west of Elizabeth Way and south of Middle Lane

Residential development – amended plans/additional information

It was agreed that a ‘no comment’ response should be made.

Decisions

PL/2023/01344 – 1 Moxhams, Horse Road

Reserved matters application following outline application PL/2022/08233 for one new dwelling, relating to scale, layout, external appearance and landscaping – approval given.

PL/2022/08930 – Bekson Farm, 54 Whaddon Lane

Revised submission for the retrospective permanent siting of a biomass boiler and container for the control unit – approval given with conditions.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

CPRE – Countryside Voices, spring/summer, 2023, and Open Space, spring, 2023.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting

Id Verde – Planters and maintenance for March (including £20.27 VAT)	£121.60
Gerald Kells – professional work on the Local Plan – 3.5 days at £390 per day, plus train fares	£1,402.35
Jolly Jumpers – hire of equipment for the Village Hall coronation evening event (including £53.85 VAT)	£323.10

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk’s Salary for April, 2023	£533.00)	£786.10
Clerk’s Expenses	£253.10)	

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Maintenance and sweeping around the War Memorial

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 16th May, 2023.

Annual Parish Assembly commencing at 7pm immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. (Cllr. Hayes gave her apologies).

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date